PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 19 Oct 59	2. LOCATION N of Langley AFB, Va.	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other Hoax ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local not given GMT	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION over a min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE not given

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Self-luminous rnd obj, about four ft in diameter; had a rnd black dome in the center of the bottom of the obj. Obj ghowed. Witness fired at the obj & heard a sound of metal on metal. After the third shot witness closed his eyes & when he reopened them the obj was gone.

11. COMMENTS

Investigators believe sighting to be a hoax.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

25 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, TEAM "C", SAFLL
ATTENTION: Major Allen F. Will

SUBJECT: Reply to Congressman Hardy's UFO Inquiries

The following will serve as a basis for reply to Congressman Hardy's UFO inquiries:

Dear Mr. Hardy:

I refer to your recent inquiries concerning unidentified flying objects in behalf of Mr. [redacted] of Norfolk, Virginia.

The 7 February 1960 UFO sighting in the mid-west was not reported to the United States Air Force and, therefore, the Air Force did not analyze or evaluate this sighting.

The 1948 top secret report officially concluding UFOs were real is non-existent. By "real" we assume Mr. [redacted] means they were objects from another planet as he mentions elsewhere in his letter of 22 February 1960. Captain Ruppelt evidently referred to letters or memoranda of individuals whose personal opinions may have reflected these views. There never has been an official Air Force report with this conclusion.

The Poquoson, Virginia sighting on 19 October 1959 was not reported to Langley Air Force Base or the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center. The statement that the Air Force queried a civilian UFO researcher is erroneous. This indirect form of interrogation is contrary to Air Force policy.

The 1952 Washington, D. C. sighting (radar and visual sightings) were due to an atmosphere inversion.

In regard to the 24 February 1959 American Air Lines pilot's sighting involving three aircraft near Bradford, Pennsylvania, the geographical area concerned is bordered on the north along the New York-Pennsylvania border (near Bradford and Olean, New York) on the route of American Air Lines Flight No. 139 departing Newark, New Jersey, at 7:10 p.m. and arriving Detroit, Michigan, at 10:52 p.m. On the south, this geographical area is bordered by the Pittsburg, Pennsylvania-Akron-Youngstown, Ohio area overflown by the United Airlines flights reporting this sighting.

The American Air Lines pilot, Captain [redacted], said in his statement submitted to the Air Force by the American Air Lines, Inc., "Sometimes the interval of the three lights were identical to the Belt in the constellation Orion." This was initially mentioned as a possible solution by the Air Force with the qualifying statement that the report as submitted had not yet been analyzed and that the findings of ATIC would be based upon a complete analysis and evaluation of the written report as submitted. The pilot's report (copy attached) also suggested the possibility that he might have witnessed a night aerial refueling operation. Captain [redacted] has not contacted the Air Force since this statement to change or edit it in any way.

Upon analysis and evaluation, this sighting turned out to be B-47 type aircraft accomplishing night refueling from KC-97 tankers. The American Air Lines pilot's report of the sighting tentatively indicated this and Air Force records showed that three B-47 type aircraft were in

the geographical area mentioned above on a night refueling operation. The 722nd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Claysburg, Pa. confirmed this fact. The position of the other two aircraft (United Airlines) and the times and distance involved supported this conclusion.

The 11 July 1959 Pacific ocean sightings resulted from a meteor. All aircraft saw the meteor at the same time and the direction was also constant.

There is no Air Force order or directive in existence which orders Air Force pilots to pursue UFOs. Air Defense Command will, of course, scramble aircraft to identify an unknown object on their radar tracking equipment.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Government Operations Committee has indicated from time to time its interest in the subject of UFOs, and we have furnished them all the information they have requested. After preliminary investigation, the Subcommittee Staff has indicated that they do not intend to have hearings and the Air Force feels that public hearings would merely give dignity to the subject out of all proportion to which it is entitled. The sensation seekers and the publishers of scientific fiction would profit most from such hearings, and in the long run we would not accomplish our objective of taking the aura of mystery out of UFOs. However, the Air Force stands ready to give its wholehearted cooperation to any Congressional Committee desirous of holding public hearings on this matter should overriding considerations require them.

Sincerely

Inclosure

Comeback OI-3d
Reader OI-1

FROM POQUOSON TO WASHINGTON: THE UFO SIGHTING OF 19 OCTOBER 1959

Compiled by

The Air Research Group

Newport News, Virginia

ARG FORM
3A.024

1 NOV 60

FPW

On October 21, 1959, the Newport News Daily Press carried a story about the sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object in Poquoson, Virginia, on October 19. Authentic UFO sightings in the Tidewater area are not uncommon; in fact, a few have attracted nation-wide attention. Of course, most reported sightings are explainable in terms of conventional phenomena, but according to current Air Force figures there remains a small percentage that stubbornly defies all known explanation. Perhaps the Poquoson case should be included in the "unknown" category.

The Daily Press report included a photograph of the principal observer, 15-year-old Mark Muza, who was shown pointing to his sketch of what he had witnessed. With him at the time was another resident of the area, Harold Moore, Jr., 14. It was Muza's mother who notified the newspaper of the case.

Investigating for the Air Research Group and NICAP, Larry Bryant immediately arranged an interview with Muza at the boy's home on the evening of the 21st. The objective of this preliminary meeting was to determine (1) the authenticity of the sighting; (2) whether any AF investigators had become involved; and (3) whether the Daily Press write-up corresponded with the actual facts. Bryant was impressed with the tenth-grader's sincerity and could see no obvious motive for fabrication. Throughout the 25-minute discussion, Mark Muza coolly answered sharp questions that would have flustered almost any young hoaxter. Completely ignorant was he of the Adamski fable and all the other "contactee" allegations. He told Bryant that he had not been contacted by the AF. Muza agreed to fill out the NICAP and ARG report forms and mail them as soon as possible.

With the receipt of the signed forms, Bryant again visited Poquoson to talk with both boys. This time, in the afternoon of October 31, he brought a camera. As he surveyed the sighting area, he noted that the exact spot of UFO activity was about a mile east of the Muza home, which itself was from five to eight miles east of Langley Air Force Base.

The remote terrain that was a temporary haven for the UFO is known as the "Big Marsh". But for two trespassing young hunters, this expansive, ugly lowland would have been a choice medium for concealing the rovings of a flying saucer. It is practically inaccessible without the aid of boots, so Bryant did not attempt the full trek to the scene of action. Instead, he took a few pictures from various angles of the marsh. One of these shows an old wooden sign planted loosely in the mud of the foreground several yards away. It reads

something like this: "Warning--Danger Area, Bombing Range. Live Ammunition and Bombs. Warranted for Trespassing: $10,000 or Ten-Years' Imprisonment, or Both." Our question is this: What person in his right mind would willingly become involved in a saucer hoax at the risk of such a penalty?

The following is a run-down of the observational data Bryant assimilated from the two interviews:

TIME AND DURATION OF SIGHTING:

6:15 p.m., for 1½ minutes.

SIZE AND SHAPE:

Circular; about four feet in diameter.

COLOR AND COMPOSITION:

A dark center encompassed by a six-inch-wide silvery rim glowing brightly as if self-illuminated; appeared metallic but had no insignia.

SOUND AND SPEED:

Gave Muza the impression of a tornado's winds being broadcast via TV; vertical departing speed was too fast to estimate.

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AND MANEUVER PATTERN:

Hovered directly above Muza's head; no arrival or departure trajectory was noticed by either observer; while stationary and in its descent, it dipped from side to side. *

---

* This "falling-leaf" or pendulum type of motion is a classic characteristic of the more publicized "unknowns". Keyhoe, on page 139 of his paper-back edition of Flying Saucers from Outer Space, reports that Project Bluebook's forerunner, Project Sign, recommended that the discs' flutter be analyzed by ATIC. It is not known whether this was ever done. If any of our readers would like to pursue the matter, though, we refer them to the Aime Michel book on "orthoteny", pages 21, 35, 37, 57, 62, 81, 91, 136, 167, 174, 192, 193, 215, 236. Also useful is the June, 1952, oscillation case described on page 47 of Keyhoe's latest book, Flying Saucers: Top Secret.

ALTITUDE OF UFO AND CONDITION OF WEATHER:

From about 55 to 80 feet; visibility unlimited, with no wind or clouds.

What distinguishes the Poquoson sighting from the rather routine cases reported during the past 13 years is that actual physical contact with the object was made. Muza and his companion were hunting that day. They were about 100 yards away from each other. Muza, resting on his knees, was calmly inspecting his 12-gauge shotgun when he heard it. At first he thought the sound was coming from a flock of wild birds, but then glanced up to see the thing gently coming down--right toward his head. This frightened him, and he did what anyone with a load of "#4 Shot" would have done: he fired at it, only to hear the ring of metal striking metal. At the 55-feet level, the object stopped in time to receive another blast of "Maximum 4's"; for his third and final shot, Muza used a steel bearing. After hearing the clear hit of the slug, Muza wiped his brow in relief. When he looked up again the target was gone.

Now here is where the confirming evidence of Moore comes in. He first noticed the object upon hearing the shooting. For about a minute he witnessed the bizarre attack. He not only heard the hits of all three shots, but also the whirring noise, which went on during the entire episode. Immediately after the third shot, Moore saw the UFO go straight up, spinning like a toy top. It went out of sight in seconds.

Upon being apprised of Larry Bryant's investigation, NICAP, in the person of Secretary Richard Hall, wrote us on November 4: "Sightings have been very heavy in recent months, and it is interesting to note that a few of them are beginning to creep back onto the newswires. Probably because of the obvious nature of the objects reported--clear, well-confirmed sightings. The Muza case fits the general pattern of very low, close approaches. There was a near-landing case in Wallingford, Ky., Sept. 7 with resulting markings on the ground. We're having analyses made."

Another novel aspect of the Poquoson incident is the treatment given it by the U. S. Air Force. To this date, no AF investigator has ever attempted to interview the two principals. Why? True to the methods of his earlier research, Bryant launched that inquiry by telephoning the Langley Base Operations Office on October 23. A Sgt. Lacy

responded by notifying the Intelligence Office of the 4505th Air Refueling Wing. Sgt. R. M. Merkling of that unit returned Bryant's call and, admitting knowledge of the Daily Press account, asked Bryant for any further details. After Bryant had obliged, Merkling, in answering a direct question, said that the decision on whether to conduct an official AF investigation would be made by other personnel there at the base.

On October 30, as a follow up, Bryant telephoned the 4505th, talked with a Maj. S. G. Scull, and asked to know the disposition of the case. Scull wasn't too cooperative. He asserted that the AF "can't start an investigation on hearsay evidence"; he tried to change the subject when his caller referred to the on-the-record account published by the Daily Press. Bryant was finally advised that his questions must be submitted through established information channels.

Bryant's next effort in this conflict of desires was a telephone call to the home of Intelligence Technician Merkling, on October 31. Asked whether an AF investigation had begun, Merkling passed the buck by saying that this was "government business" and that all inquiries had to be addressed to his superior, who was a colonel. He made no further comment when Bryant asked him the reason for "all the silence."

Entering the established information channels, Bryant sent on November 1 a Certified Mail letter to the 4505th's Intelligence Officer, the colonel. Twenty-six days later, through another follow-up, he was told by the Langley Public Information Office that his inquiry was being handled in accordance with--you guessed it--AFR 200-2.

Larry Maccubbin, Bryant's ufology colleague in Norfolk, was notified of the Poquoson saga on October 24. An ambitious high-school student, Maccubbin subsequently boarded the congressional UFO bandwagon.

His series of letters and replies began on March 14, 1960, with his inquiry to the Hon. Porter Hardy, Jr., who happens to be a member of the House Armed Services Committee. He complained that except for the call that Sgt. Merkling had made on October 23 to Bryant the AF has shown no interest in the sighting.

Congressman Hardy sent the complaint through channels

and received a reply from one Col. Carl M. Nelson, of the AF's Legislative Liaison Office: "The...sighting...was not reported to Langley Air Force Base or the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC). The statement that the Air Force queried a civilian UFO researcher is erroneous. This indirect form of interrogation is contrary to Air Force policy."

Now young Maccubbin had had enough of this evasion. He succeeded in persuading Bryant to draw up an affidavit outlining the events that had occurred during the Langley conflict. He wrote to Mr. Hardy again on April 19. "It is clearly evident," countered Maccubbin, "that this affidavit completely disproves Colonel Nelson's statements on this important incident. Therefore, my question concerning the laxity of the Air Force in investigating this sighting still remains."

The affidavit apparently put the Legislative Liaison Office on the spot, for on May 16 its director, Maj. Gen. Thomas C. Musgrave, Jr., replied to Mr. Hardy as follows:

> In view of your further interest in this matter and the affidavit of Mr. Larry W. Bryant, the field commander was again queried on the... /sighting/. Information received indicates that this signting was not reported to.../Langley or ATIC/ by the two teen-age boys who purportedly sighted the unidentified objects /There was only one UFO./. It was, however, reported to Langley... by telephone on 23 October 1959 by Mr. Bryant and again by letter on 23 November 1959 by Mr. Maccubbin. This information is offered to clarify paragraph 3 of Colonel Carl M. Nelson's letter of 31 March 1960.
>
> Mr. Bryant...stated he was queried by the Air Force concerning this sighting /specifically, during Sgt. Merkling's telephone call of 23 Oct 59/. Records indicate he queried the Air Force on this matter and he was advised that the information which he volunteered would be handled in accordance with Air Force Regulation 200-2, a copy of which is inclosed. Mr. Bryant's report contained insufficient evidence to allow any valid conclusions; and since the report was received approximately four days after the sighting, the urgency of the situation was considerably lessened. In accordance with the above-referenced directive, and since no one else in the area reported this

sighting, the matter was dropped from further consideration.

In his last letter to Mr. Hardy, Larry Maccubbin stressed the importance of holding open congressional hearings on the entire UFO subject. "Major General Musgrave's statement that Mr. Bryant's report contained insufficient information or evidence to allow any valid conclusions is indeed confusing. Since his report," continued Maccubbin, "was one of a private investigator and not the actual sighter of the UFO, no valid conclusions should be drawn from it. Instead, the sighters should have been interrogated so that a positive conclusion could be made."

All of this leads up to the question, why did Muca and Moore themselves not report the sighting to Langley? In the first place, they feared reprisals that could result from their disclosure that they had penetrated the marsh's restricted area. Then, too, they felt that nothing would come of the report due to the near-fantastic nature of the case.

The final Washington development in the Poquoson case was a letter dated May 26, 1960, from Brig. Gen. Joseph T. Kingsley, Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison, addressed to Mr. John Carstarphen, Chief Clerk of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics. Kingsley began: "At your oral request, this office has further investigated the... incident and the correspondence relative thereto which has passed between this office and Congressman Hardy." After mentioning the Musgrave letter of May 16, the general proceeded to throw unjustified discredit upon all private ufologists, referring to their acknowledged amateurism, but in the same breath, deriding their right to criticize the AF investigations. How much this attack affected Mr. Carstarphen's position is still undetermined. We believe that in every case the committee should know the full story. Thanks to Mr. Hardy, the committee has used its initiative in getting at the truth.

In evaluating the situation that had evolved after October 19, 1959, Larry Bryant, in his correspondence with Maccubbin, aired concern about the nature of the object itself: "I doubt if the object was part of a NASA experiment /emanating from the Langley-based laboratory/. The isolated Wallops Island would certainly be the test site for any new aerial device being developed locally by NASA. If the thing was terrestrial, it might have been a scanning

device launched by a Soviet submarine. This could account for the low altitude, since an enemy would attempt to avoid detection by our radar scopes." He was annoyed by the hands-off attitude of the AF, saying that if the object had caused an increase in the radioactivity of the area it might now be too late to measure that evidence.

From the material collected by Bryant and Maccubbin, the Air Research Group cannot help concluding that the U. S. Air Force was derelict in its duty. The Poquoson story is reminiscent of the famous Fitzgerald case, in which the civilian researchers involved charged the AF investigating team with criminal mishandling. That the two observers are well known in the area and do not have a questionable reputation tends to discount the idea of a premeditated hoax. We conclude further that the object heard, seen, and shot on that beautiful fall day was an unknown machine under intelligent control. We rest our case.

If you, the readers of this report, are dissatisfied with any major part of the Air Force's 13-year investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects, we recommend that you contact your senators and representatives on Capitol Hill, urging them to support a public, full-scale congressional probe into the matter. Ask them this question: How many Poquoson-type sightings must occur before the AF will include them in its supposedly sincere UFO research program?

We believe this country's citizenry is entitled to know all the facts of the UFO problem, whether pleasant or not. And we want everyone who can contribute to that knowledge to do so by sending us his sighting reports, key statements from officialdom, and news or editorial clippings from his local newspaper. Please send all such information to either of the following:

Larry W. Bryant
(Chairman, Air Research Group)
~~1662 Arnold Street~~ 700 JAMES DRIVE
Newport News
Phone: CHestnut 5-3119

Larry P. Maccubbin
(Director, Norfolk Division)
331 East Little Creek Road
Norfolk 5
Phone: JUstice 8-6881

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

BRYANT, Larry W. From Within the Blackout: An Analysis of Secrecy on the Local UFO Scene. 1 April 1960; 52 pages, mimeographed; price, $1.00 per copy.

A summary report introducing the story of "UFO Secrecy" to the layman and the novice ufologist. Presents significant local sighting reports and documents the who-what-when-where-how of the official, nation-wide secrecy conspiracy.

EDWARDS, Frank. "Have UFO's Learned to Outwit Radar?" Fate Magazine; Vol. 12, No. 12 (December, 1959); Clark Publishing Co., Evanston, Illinois.

This popular news broadcaster and author theorizes that the trend to low-level appearances by the UFO's is due to the concealment afforded them by the ground-clutter of hills and trees. He explains that the UFO's oscillation occurs when they are detected by strong radar beams.

HALL, Richard, Editor. Electro-Magnetic Effects Associated with Unidentified Flying Objects. June, 1960; prepared by NICAP's Washington, D. C. Subcommittee. 25 pages (First printing is depleted).

A detailed exploration of one aspect of the UFO mystery: electro-magnetic occurrences during 80 some sightings. It contains a digest of the data examined by the Subcommittee, maps illustrating the scope of the phenomenon, and summary reports of significant features.

KEYHOE, Donald E. Flying Saucers from Outer Space. New York: Henry Holt and Co., Inc.; 1953.

The pioneering effort of a serious, careful investigator. It is based on 41 ATIC sighting reports released exclusively to Major Keyhoe by Albert M. Chop, of the Air Force Press Desk at the time.

KEYHOE, Donald E., Editor. The U.F.O. Investigator; published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

This periodical is issued to the Committee's Associate Members, at $5.00 per annum.

KEYHOE, Donald E. Flying Saucers: Top Secret. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; 1960.

The Major's magnum opus.

MICHEL, Aime. Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery. New York: Criterion Books; 1958. Appendix, "The 1957 Saucer Wave in the United States", is by Alexander D. Mebane, of New York's Civilian Saucer Intelligence.

This is the work that paves the way for a truly scientific approach to ufology. Michel is a well-known French mathematician and engineer. He analyzes the 1954 UFO flap in which France was the hotbed for sightings, landings, and "orthotenic alignments". He concludes that the flying saucers are the products of an incredibly advanced technology, and he documents his conclusion with evidence of a pattern and guiding intelligence behind their activity.

UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio. The Fitzgerald Report: A Complete and Detailed Account of the Sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object, Sheffield Lake, Ohio, September 21, 1958; Copyright 1959 by Robert J. Durant, 2438 State Road, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Price, $1.00 per copy.

19 May: Col Meranda called re the two boys who made sighting - Oct 59

Names are: [redacted] (age 15 at time of sighting)
[redacted], Poquoson, Va.

(Intelligence talked to this boy)

[redacted] Poquoson, Va

(at the time Meranda called, Intelligence had not been able to locate him.)

I asked Meranda to get the Intelligence people to write an informal report on their talks with the youngsters and when he got it to slip it in an envelope and mail it to us...just for the record.

The unofficial feeling of Intelligence types who talked to Mark Muza is that the boys had been in some sort of mischief the night they sighted the object and fabricated the story to cover up for their activities.

[redacted]

15

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting

9 June 1960

1. 19 October 1959 - date of sighting, investigated 18 May 1960. Two boys; [redacted], 15 years old and H[redacted], Jr, 14 years old sighted a self-luminous, round object while hunting near Poquoson, Va. Master [redacted] stated he fired at the object and hit it once causing a sound of metal on metal. The observation lasted a little over a minute.

2. Major Friend called Major Paul Roberts, 4505th Air Refueling Wing, Intelligence Section, Langley AFB, Va., and confirmed the thoroughness of the investigation. [redacted]s stated that the investigation team had determined from NASA and the GCI sites that no air traffic was responsible. The witness could not find the exact spot, but aerial surveillance was made of the general area of the sighting. Investigators believe sighting to be hoax.

3. Mr[redacted], who reported the sighting to Langley AFB, was investigated by the OSI. Mr [redacted] was at one time employed in the Provost Marshal's Office at Ft Monroe, Va., but due to his attitude and evidence that he was a poor security risk, had been transferred to a less sensitive job at Ft Eustice, Va.

4. Congressman Porter Hardy, Virginia requested information on sighting from USAF.

ROBERT J. FRIEND
Major, USAF
AFCIN-4E2g

Wing Intelligence Section
4505TH AIR REFUELING WING (TAC)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ARWOI

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Reported by Mr. A. L. Bryant

TO: TAC (TOI) Lt Colonel Meranda

Attached are résumés of the interrogation of [redacted] and [redacted]r. concerning their sighting of an unidentified flying object on 19 October 1959.

PAUL ROBERTS
Major, USAF
UFO Investigation Officer

2 Atch
1-Interview: [redacted]
2-Interview: [redacted]

1st Ind (TOI) 25 May 1960

Hq TAC, Langley AFB, Va.

TO: OSAF (SAFOI-3d)

The attached UFO report is forwarded for your information as requested.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JOSEPH A. STUART JR.
Colonel, USAF
Information Officer

2 Atch - n/c

Interview with [redacted]

On 19 October 1959, [redacted] allegedly observed an unidentified flying object while hunting on U.S. Government property located at 30 07 12N 76 00 18W. [redacted] was interrogated on 18 May 1960 and offered the following information.

Two boys, [redacted] age 15, and [redacted], age 14, were in swampland northwest of the Plum Island Bomb Range. [redacted] heard an odd whirring sound and upon looking up, observed a circular object, shaped like a discus, about 4 feet in diameter. When first seen, the object was 75 to 90 feet above the ground. There was a round black dome in the center of the bottom of the object. The rest of the object was "self-luminous". It was after sundown, just before dusk, causing the object to glow. No windows, doors or other openings could be seen. [redacted] stated that when first seen, the object was "25 or 30 yards" above him, and it then steadily descended to about "60 feet". He felt a light draft stirred up by the object. He indicated he was very frightened and fired at the object three times. The third round contained a lead slug and he heard it strike the object. He stated it sounded like "metal scraping against metal". After the third shot he closed his eyes and rubbed them with his hand, at which time the object disappeared. There appeared to be no tail, trail or exhaust and very little noise. The observation lasted "a little over a minute".

The subject's mother appeared during the interview and stated that her son had returned from hunting in a highly nervous state and she stayed up all night with him trying to keep him calmed down. In her opinion, he is a truthful boy and she believes his story.

I was impressed by the youth's pat answers to the usual questions required by AFR 200-2. They appeared to be well-rehearsed and required no thought on his part. In addition, he had a ready answer for questions concerning height, distance, and size. His use of the term "self-luminous" seemed incongruous with his age and the rest of his speech. When asked to explain the meaning of "self-luminous", he became unsure of himself and stated it was "like aluminum". I was left with the distinct impression that the young man was [redacted] and he was slightly apprehensive over the interest displayed in his story.

Attachment Number 1

Interview with Harold Moore, Jr.

On 19 October 1959, [redacted], age 14, observed an unidentified flying object while duck hunting on U.S. Government property located at 37 07 12N 76 00 18W. [redacted] was interrogated on 23 May 1960, and offered the following information.

[redacted] was in the company of [redacted] at the time of sighting, located 150 yards from [redacted]'s position. His attention was drawn to the object by the sound of firing by [redacted]. The object was directly over [redacted] and had an elliptical shape. It was "4 feet in diameter, aluminum colored, with a black dome in the center - approximately 12 inches in diameter". He could observe no trail or exhaust but the grass around Muza was "laid down" by some force. He heard no noise and could see the object clearly although it was about dusk. The weather was clear with no clouds or wind. The object was observed for "about a minute" and then gradually climbed "straight up until it disappeared". There was no side motion or other maneuvers performed by the object during the period of observation. [redacted] stated that he was not concerned with the sighting and had not mentioned it to anyone else. He stated, [redacted] went home and told his mother and next morning she got all excited and called the newspaper."

It seemed that [redacted] was attempting to coordinate the details given by [redacted]. His answers seemed rehearsed and were identical to those given by [redacted]. He stated that the diameter of the object was 4 feet which does not agree with the fact that he was 150 yards from the object. It is doubtful that he could have seen a "black dome in the center of the object 12 inches in diameter" at a distance of 150 yards. His explanations of the manner in which the object disappeared did not ring true and was obviously fabricated. Most questions were answered with "I don't know" with no further clarification. I evaluate the incident as being completely fabricated by the two boys. The publicity brought about by the newspaper article made it necessary for them to prepare a pat story and then stick to it to preserve face.

Attachment Number 2

UFOs

SAFLL-1/Maj Will, jf/57234/30 Mar 60
SAFLL: 118256

MAR 31 1960

Dear Mr. [redacted]:

This is in response to your inquiry of 17 March 1960 in behalf of Mr. [redacted] concerning certain unidentified flying objects (UFO).

The 7 February 1960 UFO sighting in the Midwest was not reported to the United States Air Force and, therefore, the Air Force did not analyze or evaluate this sighting. With regard to Mr. [redacted]'s reference to the 1948 top secret repor which he states officially concluded that UFOs were "real", no such report exists. By "real" it is assumed Mr. [redacted] means the objects from another planet as he mentions elsewhere in his letter of 22 February 1960. Captain Ruppelt evidently referred to letters or memoranda of individuals whose personal opinions may have reflected these views. There never has been an official Air Force report with the conclusion Mr. [redacted] indicates.

The Poquoson, Virginia sighting on 19 October 1959 was not reported to Langley Air Force Base or the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC). The statement that the Air Force queried a civilian UFO researcher is erroneous. This indirect form of interrogation is contrary to Air Force policy.

The 1952 Washington, D. C. radar and visual sightings were determined to be due to a temperature inversion. In regard to the 24 February 1959 American Air Lines pilot's sighting near Bradford, Pennsylvania, the geographical area concerned is bordered on the north along the New York-Pennsylvania border (near Bradford and Olean, New York) on the route of American Air Lines Flight No. 139. On the south, this geographical area is bordered by the Pittsburg, Pennsylvania-Akron-Youngstown, Ohio area. The American Air lines pilot, Captain [redacted], indicated in his statement submitted to the Air Force by the American Air Lines, Incorporated, that 'Sometimes the interval of the three lights were identical to the Belt in the constellation Orion.' This was initially mentioned by the Air Force as a possible solution with the qualifying statement that the report as submitted had not yet been analyzed and that the findings of ATIC would be based upon a complete analysis and evaluation of the written report as submitted. The pilot's report, a copy of which is attached, also suggested the possibility that he might have witnessed a night aerial refueling operation. Captain [redacted] has not communicated with the Air Force since his original statement to change or edit it in any way.

cc: CO
CMBK-C
SIBK
SAFOI

Letter to [redacted] (Cont)

Upon analysis and evaluation, this sighting turned out to be B-47 type aircraft accomplishing night refueling from KC-97 tankers. The American Air Lines pilot's report of the sighting tentatively indicated this. Air Force records showed that three B-47 type aircraft were in the geographical area mentioned above on the night refueling operation. The 722nd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Claysburg, Pennsylvania confirmed this fact.

The 11 July 1959 Pacific ocean sightings resulted from a meteor. All aircraft saw the meteor at the same time and the direction was also constant.

There is no Air Force order or directive in existence which orders Air Force pilots to pursue UFOs. Air Defense Command will, of course, deploy aircraft to identify an unknown object appearing on radar tracking equipment.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Government Operations Committee has indicated from time to time its interest in the subject of UFOs. The Air Force has furnished this Subcommittee all the information which was requested. After preliminary investigation, the Subcommittee Staff indicated that they do not intend to hold hearings. The Air Force feels that public hearings would merely give dignity to the subject out of all proportion to which it is entitled. The sensation seekers and the publishers of scientific fiction would profit most from such hearings. However, the Air Force stands ready to give its wholehearted cooperation to any Congressional Committee desirous of holding public hearing on this matter should overriding considerations require them.

I trust this information will be helpful to you in advising Mr. [redacted]

M/R: Recd SAFLL 21 Mar
Fwded SAFOI 21 Mar
F/L prep/fwded 30 Mar based on
memo SAFOI 25 Mar 59
Case consists of 2 letters from
Mr. [redacted] dtd 22 Feb and 14 Mar
Ltr to Cen Musgrave frm Rep dtd 17 Mar

Sincerely yours,

CARL M. NELSON
Colonel, USAF
Cong Inquiry Division
Ofc of Legis. Liaison

3 Inclosures 1 & 2 letters frm Mr. [redacted] dtd 22 Feb and 14 Mar
3. copy of pilot's report AA, Inc. 24 Feb 59

Honorable Porter Hardy, Jr.

House of Representatives

2 SAFLL-2

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR WRIGHT, SAFLL

SUBJECT: Reply to Congressman Hardy's UFO Inquiry

The following is recommended as basis for reply to Congressman Hardy.

"We have noted the contents of Mr. [redacted]s letter of 19 April and are left with the impression that he believes the Air Force is censoring UFO information and denying to the American public data which should be available to them.

On the contrary, the Air Force policy is to provide the public with maximum information on this subject. When on occasion it is necessary to restrict release of information it is done only to protect the people involved from the idle curiosity of the sensation seekers, to keep from compromising our investigative processes or to prevent exposure of gaps or deficiencies in our defense system.

The Air Force does not deny that unknown objects have been seen by responsible people. It is in the interpretation of these sightings that we are questioned. From our investigations covering the past twelve-year period, the Air Force contends that when the evidence of these sightings has been sifted through the scientific criteria it has led to the conclusion that the objects were not space craft and they did not constitute a threat to the security of this country.

In view of Mr. [redacted] affidavit attached to Mr. [redacted] letter we wished to obtain more information on the circumstances surrounding the Poquoson, Virginia sighting, thus the delay in answering you. We have since learned that the sighting was not reported to Langley Air Force Base by the participants involved in the sighting but individuals at the Base had knowledge of the sighting through telephone calls from Mr. [redacted]. These calls were in the nature of inquiries as to what action the Air Force was taking rather than for the purpose of reporting the sighting. Mr. [redacted] initial calls were made four days after the alleged UFO was sighted.

As a matter of information, the Air Force did not call Mr. [redacted] According to the information we have, he instigated telephone calls to both individuals mentioned in his affidavit.

I sincerely hope this information will clarify to your satisfaction the circumstances surrounding this case."

File # UFO

X UFO's

SAFLL-1/Maj Wright/bal/12 May 60
SAFLL-122601

16 MAY 1960

Dear Mr. [redacted]

Reference is made to your further expression of interest to the Secretary of the Air Force of 21 April 1960 in behalf of Mr. [redacted] in concerning the investigation of unidentified flying objects. I regret the delay in the reply which was occasioned by our obtaining additional information from outside Air Force Headquarters.

In view of your further interest in this matter and the affidavit of Mr. [redacted] the field commander was again queried on the Poquoson, Virginia, sighting of 19 October 1959. Information received indicates that this sighting was not reported to Langley Air Force Base or the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center by the two teen-age boys who purportedly sighted the unidentified objects. It was, however, reported to Langley Air Force Base by telephone on 23 October 1959 by Mr. [redacted] and again by letter on 23 November 1959 by Mr. [redacted] This information is offered to clarify paragraph 3 of Colonel Carl M. Nelson's letter of 31 March 1960.

Mr. [redacted], a civilian unidentified flying object investigator, stated he was queried by the Air Force concerning this sighting. Records indicate he queried the Air Force on this matter and he was advised that the information which he volunteered would be handled in accordance with Air Force Regulation 200-2, a copy of which is inclosed. Mr. [redacted] report contained insufficient evidence to allow any valid conclusions; and since the report was received approximately four days after the sighting, the urgency of the situation was considerably lessened. In accordance with the above-referenced directive, and since no one else in the area reported this sighting, the matter was dropped from further consideration.

The Air Force does not deny that unexplained objects have been seen by responsible people. It is in the interpretation of these sightings that we are questioned. From our investigations covering the past twelve-year period, the Air Force contends that when the evidence of these sightings had been evaluated against established scientific criteria it led to the conclusion that the objects were not space craft and did not constitute a threat to the security of this country.

COORD
CMBK-C
SAFOI
M/WRIGHT,
X57231

Ltr to Honorable Porter Hardy, Jr. (Cont)

There has been no authenticated scientific evidence presented to or discovered by the Air Force to support the fact that unidentified flying objects can be considered manned or unmanned craft from outer space. Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] have indicated that they believe to the contrary, and both have written the Air Force on many occasions since April 1958 stating this belief.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated, and we trust the above information will be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

M/R:
21 Apr - Ltr fr Rep to SAF with incls
28 Apr - Recd SAFLL
29 Apr - Fwded to SAFOI
11 May - draft of reply fr Maj Tacker, SAFOI
12 May - FL prep'd/fwded based on above draft
Inclosure - AFR 200-2

THOMAS C. MUSGRAVE, JR.
Major General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison

Honorable Porter Hardy, Jr.

House of Representatives

[redacted]
Norfolk 5, Virginia
November 23, 1959

Intelligence Officer
4505th Air Refueling Wing
Langley Air Force Base
Virginia

Dear Sir:

On October 19, 1959, two teen-age boys in Poquoson, Virginia, reported the sighting of an unidentified flying object. This sighting was reported to your office on October 23, by Mr. [redacted]. Later, a Sgt. R. M. Merkling, of your office, contacted Mr. [redacted] and asked for the information he possessed concerning the sighting. He said that the decision on whether to conduct an official Air Force investigation of the sighting would be made by other personnel there at the Base.

As of October 31, neither of the witnesses to this sighting had been questioned by Air Force authorities.

I would like to know if any subsequent action was taken by your office concerning the investigation of this sighting. Specifically, has any Langley-based officer or agency made an official investigation of this sighting or conducted interviews with either of the two witnesses? If so, when and what were the results of the investigation and/or interview? If not, is an official investigation or interview contemplated in the future?

If no further investigative action on this case is contemplated by the Air Force authorities concerned, what are the reasons for this decision?

Also, is it not true that information concerning the subject of unidentified flying objects sighted in this area is maintained by the U. S. Air Force at Langley Field?

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

SAFLL-2/Maj Boland/dds/73376/5D918/20 May
FILE: 155

Dear Mr. [redacted]

At your oral request, this office has further investigated the Poquoson, Virginia unidentified flying object incident and the correspondence relative thereto which has passed between this office and Congressman Hardy. Attached is a copy of a letter which has just recently been sent to Congressman Hardy in reply to his further expression of interest to the Secretary of the Air Force on 21 April 1960.

As you are no doubt aware, the United States Air Force has responsibility for the investigation and analysis of unidentified flying objects over the United States of America and this responsibility is directly related to its responsibility to the defense of the United States. As you have been made aware by recent newspaper reports on the international U-2 incident, the defense of the United States against known enemies and weapon systems is no small task and all of the resources and personnel are seriously committed thereto.

LIST:
AFOI

At the same time there are over one hundred private organizations interested in the UFO phenomena for commercial or other reasons. One of the greatest problems of Air Force Intelligence is the preliminary evaluation of sighting so that our available resources will not be wasted on false alarms or on flying objects which do not constitute a threat to the security of this country. In fact, in January 1953, a scientific advisory panel was established independent of the Air Force to evaluate the UFO phenomena, and it was the conclusion of the panel that, although there was no evidence that UFOs constituted foreign developments capable of being a direct physical threat to the United States, they did constitute a threat to the orderly function of the protective units of the body politic because an unwarranted mass of irrelevant information could clog vital channels of communication and continued false reports could hide indications of a genuine hostile attack. It is with these findings in mind that the authorities at Langley evaluated the report of Mr. [redacted]

With reference to Mr. [redacted] you will note, as indicated in the newspaper article attached hereto, that Mr. [redacted] is a self-appointed authority on unidentified flying objects and he, along with

SAFLL-2 SAFLL SAFOI

many others, considers himself entitled to be an unofficial advisor to the USAF Intelligence community. Since he is not charged under law with this responsibility, it would be entirely inappropriate and even dangerous at times to exercise the Intelligence system in order to give him or his organization notoriety and publicity.

Please note further that the UFO detection devices featured in the newspaper picture of Mr. [redacted] appears to be nothing more than a common doorbell connected to two dry cell batteries. Mr. [redacted] is evidently of the opinion that such a device is capable of supplying scientific proof that UFOs are flying objects from outer space. Yet the Air Force has been unable to secure such evidence utilizing its entire world-wide air defense radar network and the facilities of the rest of the scientific community dedicated to satellite tracking.

Should you or the Committee have any further interest in this matter I would be pleased to arrange a briefing for you by an office of the Air Technical Intelligence Center.

Sincerely yours,

M/R: See MR dd 6 May (Maj Boland) for basis of this request during visit to Hs.Sci.Com/final prep/fwded per this req 20 May. This ltr based upon SAFOI news releases and info furnished by SAFOI. Ltrs referred to be Col Nelson and Gen. Musgrave were written by Maj Wright, SAFLL-1. Their info furnished by draft by SAFOI dd 25 Mar. Their corres was inquiry by Son Hardy.

Inclosures

JOSEPH [illegible], JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Dep[illegible]

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
House of Representatives

[redacted]
Newport News, Virginia
November 1, 1959

Intelligence Officer
4505th Air Refueling Wing
Langley Air Force Base
Virginia

Dear Sir:

On October 23, 1959, I talked by telephone to a member of Langley's Group Operations, regarding an alleged sighting of an unidentified flying object on October 19. Later in the day, a Sgt. R. M. Merkling, of your office, contacted me and asked for the information which I had obtained about the sighting. He said that the decision on whether to conduct an official Air Force investigation of the sighting would be made by other personnel there at the Base.

In a telephone conversation on October 30, a Maj. S. G. Scull, of your office, could not inform me as to what subsequent action your office has taken or plans to take in the disposition of my information and/or the data contained in the Daily Press news article of October 21. Should I assume that no Air Force investigators will ever officially contact the two observers involved in the incident of October 19? Specifically, does any Langley-based officer or agency plan to conduct an official interview with either of the two boys within the next 30 days?

If no further investigative action on this case is contemplated by the Air Force authorities concerned, will you please tell me the reason for this decision?

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

REPLY TO ATTN OF: AFCSI-6D 24-135-21

SUBJECT: [redacted] (U)

JAN 20 1960

TO: SAFOI (Major L. F. Tacker)

1. The following is furnished for your information:

a. During the months of October and November 1959, [redacted] made several unsuccessful attempts to solicit information by telephone from various personnel at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia concerning an alleged Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sighting which reportedly occurred in October 1959.

b. On 12 November 1959, Capt Wesley R. Williams, Information Services Officer (ISO), Langley Air Force Base advised that he had received a letter from [redacted] dated 1 November 1959 in which [redacted] requested that he be advised whether "any Langley-based officer or agency" planned to conduct an investigation into the alleged UFO sighting which had reportedly occurred in October 1959. [redacted] further requested that, if no further investigative action was contemplated by the Air Force, he be advised of the reason for the decision.

c. On 12 November 1959 a confidential source provided this Directorate with a copy of an incomplete document entitled "FROM WITHIN THE BLACKOUT: AN ANALYSIS OF SECRECY ON THE LOCAL UFO SCENE by [redacted] Air Research Group".

2. Attached for your information is one copy of the above-cited document and one copy of letter from [redacted] dated 1 November 1959. The attachments are for your retention.

3. No investigation is being conducted of Subject by this Directorate.

F. L. WELCH
Assistant Chief
Counterintelligence Div.
Dir of Special Investigations
The Inspector General

2 Atchs
1. Ltr fr [redacted] dtd 1 Nov 59
2. Document by [redacted]

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

REPLY TO ATTN OF: AFCSI-6D 24-185-21

SUBJECT: [redacted]

JAN 20 1960

TO: AFCIN -4

1. Reference is made to letter, this Directorate, dated 12 November 1958, subject and file same as above.

2. During the months of October and November 1959, [redacted] made several unsuccessful attempts to solicit information by telephone from various personnel at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia concerning an alleged Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sighting which reportedly occurred in October 1959.

3. On 12 November 1959, Captain Wesley R. Williams, Information Services Officer (ISO), Langley Air Force Base, advised that he had received a letter from [redacted], dated 1 November 1959, in which [redacted] requested that he be advised whether "any Langley-based officer or agency" planned to conduct an investigation into the alleged UFO sighting which had reportedly occurred in October 1959. [redacted] further requested that, if no further investigative action was contemplated by the Air Force, he be advised of the reason for the decision.

4. On 12 November 1959 a confidential source provided this Directorate with a copy of an incomplete document entitled "FROM WITHIN THE BLACKOUT: AN ANALYSIS OF SECRECY ON THE LOCAL UFO SCENE by [redacted], Chairman, the Air Research Group 2." Attached for your information is one copy of this document and one copy of letter from [redacted], dated 1 November 1959.

5. No investigation is being conducted of Subject by this Directorate.

F. L. WELCH
Assistant Chief
Counterintelligence Div.
Dir of Special Investigations
The Inspector General

2 Atchs
1. Ltr to Intelligence Officer, 4505 Air Refueling Wg, 1 Nov 59 fr [redacted]
2. Document by [redacted], FROM WITHIN THE BLACKOUT

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[redacted]

November 1, 1959

Intelligence Officer
4505th Air Refueling Wing
Langley Air Force Base
Virginia

Dear Sir:

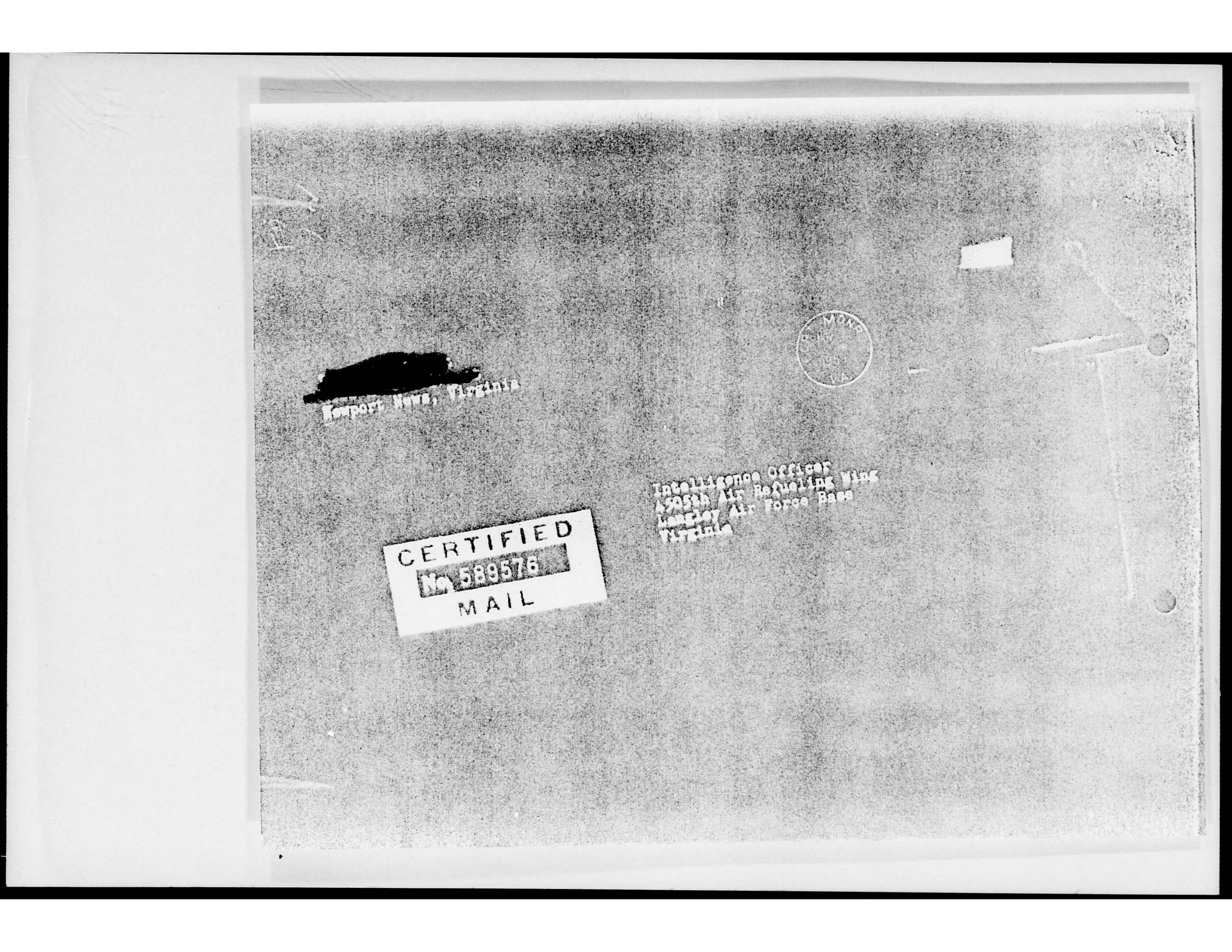
On October 23, 1959, I talked by telephone to a member of Langley's Group Operations, regarding an alleged sighting of an unidentified flying object on October 19. Later in the day, a Sgt. R. M. Merkling, of your office, contacted me and asked for the information which I had obtained about the sighting. He said that the decision on whether to conduct an official Air Force investigation of the sighting would be made by other personnel there at the Base.

In a telephone conversation on October 30, a Maj. S. G. Scull, of your office, could not inform me as to what subsequent action your office has taken or plans to take in the disposition of my information and on the data contained in the Daily Press news article of October 21. Should I assume that no Air Force investigators will ever officially contact the two observers involved in the incident of October 19? Specifically, does any Langley-based officer or agency plan to conduct an official interview with either of the two boys within the next 30 days?

If no further investigative action on this case is contemplated by the Air Force authorities concerned, will you please tell me the reason for this decision?

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]


Newport News, Virginia
MONR
VA
Intelligence Officer
459th Air Refueling Wing
Langley Air Force Base
Virginia
CERTIFIED
No. 589576
MAIL

[redacted]

CONTENTS

Preface 3

I. [illegible] 5

II. [illegible] 11

III. [illegible] 19

IV. [illegible] 27

V. [illegible] 34

Appendix 1

P R E F A C E

The United States Air Force defines an Unidentified Flying Object as "any airborne object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features does not conform to any presently known aircraft or missile type, or which cannot be positively identified as a familiar object." The writer has taken several months to summarize a particular phase of the official and unofficial investigation of UFO's. He has endeavored mainly by trial-and-error to set an example of what the novice researcher in this field can accomplish by asking questions, weighing answers, and forming logical conclusions. At the same time, he hopes that the layman will gain insight into the motives and methods of private citizens who have a serious and active interest in the subject of unconventional aerial objects or "flying saucers". And the writer trusts that this summary will become a significant contribution to organized civilian UFO research.

For parallel reading outside the bibliographic entries of the accompanying appendices, the reader is encouraged to consult "The Psychology of UFO Secrecy" and inspiring article written by Coral E. Lorensen, appearing in the October-ber, 1958 issue of Flying Saucers Magazine (Palmer Publications, Amherst, Wisconsin). Also recommended is Frank Edwards's authoritative article on "Censorship and UFO's", published in the September, 1959 issue of Fate Magazine. The writer envisions this paper as an introductory reference treatise. Accordingly, it is his intention to keep his reader informed of pertinent developments. This will be done simply by attaching periodic supplements or annexes to the basic work. Each annex will be numbered and dated and should be regarded as a separate Air Research Group publication.

As the culmination of over three years' research, this paper attempts to prove that on both the local and national levels the vast majority of the government's UFO information is unavailable to the American public. Certainly, this report is more than a documentary criticism of a single governmental policy. It is an appeal for the endurance of our heritage as Americans: freedom of seeking the truth wherever or whatever it might be, freedom from undue authoritarian censorship. If freedom be a relative term, it is the hope of the writer that his efforts will have made this audience more nearly free in at least spirit, if not in actions.

L. W. BRYANT

Newport News, Virginia
September 7, 1959

PART ONE

Discovery — Decision

In 1956, when I was a freshman at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, I was browsing in a drug store when I came across a flying-saucer advertisement in a little-known pulp magazine. The ad concerned another obscure magazine and solicited new subscriptions from readers who were interested in receiving up-to-date information on unidentified flying objects. I was curious enough to send for a sample copy of the publication, but I did not realize that this idle curiosity was later to evolve into a concerted effort to start my own UFO investigations.

Having read a few books on the UFO enigma, I was readily appreciative of others' thoughts about the subject. Although I never saw a bonafide "saucer", I had heard of reliable reports from persons who have observed the phenomenon in this area.

One such report is now a classic in the annals of the Air Technical Intelligence Center's Project Blue Book *. Listed as an "unknown", the case involves two veteran airline pilots, William B. Nash and William H. Tortenberry, who, on the night of July 14, 1952, saw eight coin-shaped, red-orange objects maneuvering below their plane, near Norfolk. The two observers calculated the objects' speed to be 12,000 miles per hour. Says Pilot Nash about this sighting: "I believe the discs were intelligently controlled machines from outer space."

Six years after the Nash-Tortenberry incident I was fortunate to learn of another confirmed local sighting of unknown objects traveling through the evening sky of July, 1952. Reported to me in writing, in July, 1958, by the key witness, a scientist employed by the Langley division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration **, this case also is in the files of Project Blue Book. The engineer has requested that his name not be used publicly in connection with the report. Therefore, I shall refer to him as Mr. "Hopkins".

---

* Project Blue Book is the code name of the Air Force unit investigating UFO reports submitted from the field. The Project is one of several functions of the ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

** Formerly, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

I talked with Mr. Hopkins on July 6, 1958 and learned that at least two Newport News Ground Observer Corps spotters who were on duty the night of July 14, 1952 saw lights which were similar to those he saw. He could not recall their names, but he said that during an informal conversation he and the plane spotters compared flights and decided that they all had seen the same thing. Mr. Hopkins showed me his copy of the Langley Field account; it did not include the G.O.C. aspect, the reason being that the report came before the private collaboration made by him and the spotters. Apparently, the ground observers did not "call in" their sighting to the Richmond Air Defense Filter Center, for he told me that as far as he knew the Air Force still has not been informed of the G.O.C. confirmation.

Following my brief venture at William and Mary, I accepted employment as a printing firm in Newport News. During the spring of 1957, I had contacted a good sampling of "saucerines" -- periodicals published by private organizations or persons interested in the UFO subject. Titles of such magazines included Cosmic News, The Saucerian Bulletin, Satellite, and Ufology News. I also had two French examples, Le Courrier Interplanetaire, and Ouranos. To add virility to my "saucerina" collection, in July I became an Associate Member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena *, and I began to receive its regular magazine, The U.F.O. Investigator, as well as the special publications which the Committee issues from time to time.

Now that I was substantially introduced to organized civilian ufology, as exemplified by the National Investigations Committee, I could not help sensing the dominate theme of this new branch of enquiry. The findings of NICAP indicated that for years the Air Force has been withholding information, including sighting reports, on UFO's. Since most of its Board of Governors subscribes to the accusation of Air Force censorship, an express propose of the Committee is to end the secrecy. Thus, there struggles not only a controversy over the reality or unreality of alien space vehicles called flying saucers but also over the alleged withholding of vital UFO information.

---

* NICAP, a non-profit group, is directed by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe (USMC, Ret.) and is headquartered at 1536 Connecticut Avenue, Washington 6, D. C.

I wanted to combine my own research into this question of secrecy, so in August I launched my campaign to search the AMIC and other sources for available answers.

I wrote to the Air Force, requesting an evaluation of a "flight" in the sky lighting that had occurred in Newport News in the summer of 1952. In his cordial reply, Capt. Wallace W. Elrod, Assistant for Plans of the Air Technical Intelligence Center, said: "We have received only one report of a sighting that corresponds to the one mentioned in your letter. We requested more detailed information from the person who made the report and at this date we have not received the information requested. We thus do not have sufficient information upon which to base an analysis or an opinion." The captain went on to say that he was enclosing a Department of Defense press release as well as a copy of the summary of Project Blue Book Special Report Number [illegible]. The summary, by the way, emphasized the Air Force conclusion that "no evidence has been received which would tend to indicate that the United States is being observed by missiles from outer space or a foreign government."

My first AMIC project thus showed a willingness of the Air Force to cooperate with them in this field. However, I couldn't undertake my investigation to accept NICAP's flight-from-Cleveland-in-Flight-Six report as the latter had proposed in its July issue of the [illegible] investigation.*

* See item (2) of Appendix to Part One.

With my introduction to civilian UFO research, I became aware of the widespread charges and supporting evidence that the Air Force is engaged in a plot to conceal UFO facts from the public. Despite its desire to cooperate with accredited news media representatives and its exposure of "taking the aura of mystery out of UFOs", the Air Force, by its perennially contradictory behavior on the subject, had failed to persuade this writer and other researchers that what we were calling a flying saucer blackout was in reality a misfire of our own imaginations.

PART TWO

Oldenburgh's Folly

In the summer of 1957 I considered the advantages of forming a NICAP affiliate, a study group comprised of twelve or more local members. * But NICAP membership in this area was rather low, so to be practical I established a club of my own, the Air Research Group. ** The first step in its formation was to recruit members, or "sympathizers", as I used to call them; several small ads in the local newspaper produced the desired results, and by the late fall of '57 a few local saucer enthusiasts had applied for and received membership in the Group. *** It wasn't until early 1958 that the club had its first introductory meeting. Little did I realize that as the Group's Chairman -- no one else wanted the job -- I would soon be responsible for a ufological coup de main that would go down in Air Force and NICAP history.

During my 1957 recruiting program, I was fortunate to have had the saucers working for me, at least indirectly. There is nothing like a UFO flap, an eruption of sightings, to stir up indifferent minds. The month of November was the host this time. In the space of 30 days, a flood of reliable reports caught the attention of Project Blue Book, NICAP, and the news-wire services. The Nation, the State, and the Peninsula -- all were subjected to the whims of machines which supposedly do not exist. In comparison, the November '57 flap was no less a spectacle than that of the classic July, 1952 period. /

Along with a few unconfirmed reports, the Tidewater

---

* See item (1) of Appendix to Part Two.

** Refer to ARG Form 3A.014, "Statement of Policy" (11 Feb 59).

*** See ARG Form 3A.015, "Membership Data Sheet" (Revised 11 Feb 59).

/ For an analysis of the November flap see item (2) of Appendix to Part Two.

area of Virginia had an energetic sampling of the November phenomena. The Ground Observer Corps was not left out, either, for the Air Research Group now has on file a report of a disc hovering over Hilton Village, Jamestown in broad daylight. Clearly outlined, solid, and about three-fourths the size of a B-57, the object apparently was observing six jet aircraft that had just taken off from Langley Field. It was about 500 feet above the flight path of the B-57 jets and about one mile from the observation post. The spotter first was watching the jets but then he happened to glance upward and to the right and spied the foreign craft. He had sensed the object's presence minutes before he consciously observed it. After about ten seconds of trying to believe his eyes, the observer turned to pick up his binoculars; when he came back seconds later, the object was gone. The thing had never moved during the period of observation. For this reason and the fact that it had disappeared suddenly without a trace, the spotter did not call in a report to the Filter Center. Had it remained in view a few minutes longer or moved at all, the logging of a report certainly would have been necessary. The observer said that in his five years of extensive sky surveillance he had never before experienced such an incident.

Are the UFO's interplanetary vehicles originating from a source unknown to us Earthlings? Are they secret weapons boasting a "Made-in-USA" label? Are the objects a form of life itself—space animals? Many private researchers think they have the answers to those provoking questions, and I for one am confident that the U. S. Air Force has the answers. "Indications are that the USAF has ceased its basic research into the UFO story and is concentrating on covering up all evidence of flying saucer reality. 'Conceal everything, at any cost' seems to be the philosophy of the AF; in fact its UFO bible, Air Force Regulation 200-2 *, is an epitome of military censorship." Those were my thoughts back in late 1957. The question in my mind not only concerned the existence of the saucers themselves, I was becoming more and more critical of the Air Force's general handling of UFO investigation. I asked myself: "Can ten years and millions

---

* A sample copy of AFR 200-2 is available upon request to the Office of Public Information, Department of the Air Force, Washington 25, D. C.

of dollars spent on UFO investigation be a fair price if indeed flying saucers are figments of the imagination?" Satisfaction guaranteed, or your money back, can this motto ever be employed by the scientists of Project Blue Book.

My first briefing on AFR 200-2 came in January, 1959. One of the ads on the Group which I had published in the local newspaper cited our objective of giving the public all data obtained from our investigation of local sightings. A couple of days later, I received a letter from a Newport News advertising agency, soliciting the identical copy which I had used earlier. The agency was the publisher of the Langley Flyer, a weekly newspaper issued for Langley field personnel. Several days after I accepted the invitation to submit the notice for publication I was informed that the copy had been rejected by the base public information officer at Langley, Capt. Gregory B. Oldenburgh. I was told that an explanation for his action could be had by telephoning him. So I did call him. Referring to AFR 200-2, he said that he was not authorized to publish such an ad. When I asked him to send me a copy of the regulation, he invited me to discuss its provisions with him at his office. It seemed odd to me that he couldn't spare a copy of the document, so I decided to draw up two alternate ads for his consideration. I know that AFR 200-2 prohibited AF Base personnel from releasing information on sightings that remain unsolved or unexplained. Therefore, I was prepared to argue the point that since the "saucers" are regarded by the AF as non-existent then there actually is no confirmed data that the Air Research Group could make public. But the captain did not want to argue at all, of this he reminded me when we met each other at the appointed hour on January 20.

At the start of the ten-minute interview, Captain Oldenburgh inquired of me as to what my educational background was, where I was employed, and what my other interests were. He showed me a copy of AFR 200-2, explained its restrictions, and said that I could obtain a copy by writing to the government printing office. Well, I asked to take down on paper a few extracts from the document, but he wouldn't allow this, saying, however, that it would be all right to copy the entire thing. Perhaps his attitude was based upon the fact that the regulation used to be classified. I could easily perceive his interpretation that any extract from the order should be kept in the category of "For Official Use Only".

He [illegible] that [illegible] and that he was [illegible] authorized [illegible] reports of "flying [illegible] craft." Such a [illegible] suspected that he [illegible] existence of which [illegible]

Just before he ended the interview to depart for another appointment, he said regarding the alternate ads which I had asked him to approve or reject, in writing: "You're not going to pin anything on me", and he added that he was planning to take the matter up with a legal advisor.

Three days later he wrote to me stating that he had rejected the advertising copy because it felt it would encourage Air Force personnel to violate present Air Force policy and specifically AFR 200-2. As to the revised ads, one of which used only the term flying saucer, "Though the wording has been changed, it is my belief that one of the objectives of your organization is the public dissemination of data on unidentified flying objects. As I pointed out to you on the 20th of January, this is contrary to Air Force policy and regulations."

Even if Oldenburger did misinterpret the security aspect of the Air Force UFO investigation program, his remarks gave impetus to the secrecy provision of AFR 200-2, [illegible] no base commander is authorized to release data on sightings unless said sightings involved what was later determined to be familiar or conventional objects. Only investigative procedure such as radar tracking methods and jet-interceptor performance is deemed classifiable in the interest of national security. As far as conclusionary evidence is concerned, Air Force Assistant Secretary "R. E. Hermann" stated on January 22, 1958, that the AF was not withholding any UFO information. He made this declaration as a participant in a nationally televised documentary show on the UFO subject. But, as disclosed later by CBS spokesman N. A. Carlberg, Director of Editing, the show itself "had been carefully cleared for security reasons". "Therefore, it was the responsibility of this network to insure performance in accordance with predetermined security standards. Any indication that there would be a deviation might lead to statements that neither this network nor the individuals on the program were authorized to release. As a consequence,

AF-17

public interest was served by the action taken by CBS in deleting the audio in Major Keyhoe's speech at a point where he apparently was about to deviate from the script." I have two questions: If it is true that the AF is withholding no UFO data, that flying saucers are non-existent, then why was it necessary to clear such a program for security? What were the "unauthorized statements" they feared might be made?

Because of the Oldenburgh incident, I was now convinced that the UFO blackout was not imaginary. To speak out publicly against such a government policy. I composed a lengthy letter-to-the-editor, and in March I substituted it for publication in the Newport News Daily Press.

I have always believed that an informed public contributes to the strength of a nation. Freedom of information thus was the theme of the letter. As I singled out Captain Oldenburgh's action, I had in mind George Washington's remark that "concealment is a form of misinformation". My letter was utterly intolerant of military secrecy as an end within itself. To me, secrecy practiced for its own make could not realistically mean security.

Needless to say, the letter was never published. But later I agreed to stop the idea of publicly reproaching Captain Oldenburgh for his relatively minor part in the nation-wide "conspiracy". The Daily Press's military editor, Harry Kaleum, though, I had some interesting material that could be molded into a feature article on the Air Research Group. So, after discussing the proposal with members at a meeting on April 2, I hurredly submitted the material he had requested. The article carried a photograph of this writer, and opened with the following paragraph.

> A group of 10 Peninsula residents is trying to get the Air Force to revise a regulation and at the same time is attempting to dispel the idea that those who believe in unidentified flying objects are crackpots.

Elsewhere the article observes: "Purposes of the group, the

youthful spokesman seeks, is to inform the public of the results of these [illegible] and to encourage the public to demand the end of Air Force censorship of UFO data."

Before the Redbook article was published, I had spoken to Editor Kilgore of it, learning, in fact, of which a private researcher had tried to determine the number and classification of sightings which were reported to certain Air Force bases in recent years. By order of AFR 200-2, sample requests like that one must be forwarded to Air Force headquarters in Washington, where they are handled by the chief P.I.O., Maj. L. J. Tacker. In most cases the requests are denied. When informed of this ruling on Mr. Kilgore quoted Langley and he too was told that his answer must come from the office of the Secretary of the Air Force. So he contacted that office and talked with Major Tacker, who said he would call Langley for the data and would contact Kilgore later. Mr. Kilgore was out of the office when Tacker returned the call, so someone else took down the information.

On April 9, the morning paper carried a news article titled "Langley Reports 3 UFO Sightings". Over a two-year period, Major Tacker informed the Daily Press, sightings occurred on Sept. 10, 1956, near Big Bethel, Hampton; in May, 1957 in Suffolk; and Nov. '57 in Warwick. He said none of the three reports was accomplished by sufficient data to form a positive identification, and a thorough investigation was made of the Big Bethel incident. Although this case was not listed as an "unknown", Major Tacker said that the object involved was reported as about the size of a softball, shaped something like a full moon. And he said that a witness, who was not named, allegedly saw passengers in the vehicle, wearing headgear.

When informed of the Air Force's response to Mr. Kilgore's enquiry, I was curious to know if any of the observers of the three cases was on active military duty at the time of his experience. I was aware that at least one other un-

M-19

classified order had been used to enforce secrecy in the governmental UFO investigations. Titled JANAP 146, this document makes it a federal offense for pilots to reveal UFO sightings publicly if they reported them over a system called CIRVIS -- Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings. A Joint-Chief-of-Staff product, the directive is binding on members of the armed forces, the Coast Guard, and anyone else who happens to learn the contents of a CIRVIS message. Section III, citing the Espionage Laws, prescribes that any person who makes public a UFO-CIRVIS report can be imprisoned for one to ten years and fined up to 10,000 dollars. My curiosity about the Langley cases was partially satisfied when I phoned Major Backer on the morning of April 9. He said that all the observers, if he recalled correctly, were unassociated with the military. As I proceeded to query him on other points of the Daily Press article, particularly the lack of clarity in the E.G. Bethel case, he invited me to submit my questions to him in writing. Thus, on the same day, I composed a three-page letter to him and enclosed a NICAP sighting report form, which I asked him to forward to the initial observer in the E.G. Bethel incident. In his reply of April 14, he said that my letter disclosed that I was associated with one of many private organizations on aerial phenomena and for this reason he could not give me the data requested. He said: "It is true on occasion that we do furnish information on specific cases to accredited news media representatives to keep this public adequately informed on this subject." Then he added: "If your organization (NICAP, that is, for we never mentioned the Air Research Group) is registered with the Better Number, I suggest you communicate with some of the other groups or clubs interested in aerial phenomena. It is a popular and imaginative subject and I am sure such associations would be mutually beneficial."

There we have it. The ultimate significance of AFR 200-2. If we need to know a certain datum, we must discover it without assistance from the Pentagon, or be prepared to defend our right to the information. But, I think the Pentagon is coming to realize that, as columnist George E. Sokolsky remarks, "It is not profitable to keep the people uninformed or falsely informed because this course of events brings the truth to the surface sooner or later. Whether the course of ufological events takes the form of a mass saucer landing or a recurrence of mysterious aircraft disappearances remains to be seen.

PART THREE

UFO, UFO, and the AF Budget

To show further the effectiveness of AFR 200-2, I recount here another experience I had with the authorities of Langley Field, AMC, and the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

UFO—Identified Flying Objects—is the form I have chosen to represent that category of sightings which that AF lists as solved. Such a sighting, for example, is the case of a "UFO" that was seen by hundreds of Peninsula residents on the Fourt of July, 1958. At the expense of the taxpayer, it was determined by the Langley interception dispatched to the scene that this phenomenon was merely a searchlight beam. Since the object was positively identified as a familiar or conventional one, Langley's commander, Col. H. P. Sparks and its P.I.O. were authorized by AFR 200-2 to release all data secured on the nature of the phenomenon. Both the exact location of the searchlight and the fact that an attempted interception was made were publicized freely. Because such data was so easily made public, I could see no reason why the AF would not release figures on the expenditures of Project Blue Book, particularly as regards UFO cases. But, I should have reminded myself of the earlier attempt I had made to determine the number of solved sightings logged by Langley during 1956-1958. In this respect, a letter I addressed to Col. Sparks on April 10 was referred, in accordance with AFR 200-2, to Maj. Tacker at the Pentagon. I objected to this obvious evasion but was informed by Capt. Oldenburgh on April 28 that since my inquiry concerned the results of an investigation of UFO's his office was not authorized to release such information. Did his office forget this restriction on the night of July 4? Maj. Tacker never replied to my letter of April 10.

From June 1, 1958 to January 22, 1959, I became fully aware of how difficult it can be to trace the use of U. S. tax dollars. A series of 23 letters to and from officials of the Air Force and the United States Congress proved to me that bureaucracy is an ideal burial ground for citizens' enquiries.

APPENDIX TO PART ONE

(1) RUPPELT, Edward J. The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Doubleday and Co. Inc., 1956. This book was cleared for security by the Department of Defense.

(2) KEYHOE, Donald E., Editor. "8-Point Plan Offered Air Force". The U.F.O. Investigator. Vol. I, No. 1, (July, 1957), p. 1.

(3) KEYHOE, Donald E. The Flying Saucer Conspiracy. New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1955. Page 232.

(4) KEYHOE, Donald E., Editor. "Metal Object from Skies Rushed to ATIC for Analysis". The U.F.O. Investigator. Vol. I, No. 3 (January, 1958), p. 2

PART FIVE

Cover-up at CONARC

In May, 1958 I secured employment as a publications clerk with the Adjutant General's Section, Headquarters. The position, which I still occupy at this writing, is a "sensitive" one, requiring appropriate security clearance. My official duties are governed by specific Army regulations. Soon after I became a Civil Service employee, I learned that much of my unofficial activity is subject to scrutiny and restriction by certain Army authorities.

The U. S. Continental Army Command embraces the six U. S. Continental Armies and all field type Army installations within the United States. About 100 Army posts, 400,000 military personnel, 75,000 civilian employees, and over a million Army Reserve members receive training directions and policy instructions from the command's nerve center here on the Peninsula. CONARC headquarters is second in authority only to Department of the Army headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Part of Hq USCONARC's function is to originate and distribute publications. The Daily Bulletin is prepared for the information and use of all Ft. Monroe personnel. This newspaper consists of an official section and an unofficial one, which usually carries items on local club doings, sales of merchandise, and employment advertisements.

On September 22, 1958, I inserted an unofficial notice in the Daily Bulletin, suggesting that Ft. Monroe personnel who were interested in UFO's contact the Air Research Group. Two days later, my immediate supervisor received a telephone call from the office of Maj. W. M. Hartness, Commanding Officer of the Counter Intelligence Corps (C.I.C.) Detachment at the fort. I was told to report to the C.I.C. office for questioning.

When I arrived for the interview I was met by two gentlemen dressed in civilian clothes. One was the chief of C.I.C. Operations, Mr. W. J. Robinson, the other was Mr. J. T. Morgan.

M 124

The closed-door meeting, which lasted about thirty minutes, was presided over by Mr. Robinson, a tall, husky man, whose Army career had everything but an official flying-saucer discussions. While the two officers asked me questions, I sat uncomfortably in an arm chair opposite them. My answers were complete and to the point, as I had nothing to hide. I told them why I was interested in UFO's and why I had inserted the ad in the Daily Bulletin. They in turn complained that they were interested in the activity of any new group which advertised itself in a CONAHC publication. Although they had not said so, I was sure they were investigating my activity to determine if any subversion was involved.

Communist infiltration into organized ufology is, of course, an unpleasant subject. Nevertheless, it is reported that some existing groups are adhering to and fostering certain doctrines or principles which sound the familiar ring of the "party line". At least one West Coast group is "dedicated to the physical, spiritual, and economic ..... cipation of man", and it has publicly stated that one of its purposes is "to help initiate, through political and economic action, the procedures for providing abundance for all." This organization promotes the "New Age non-money, non-value exchanging economic system of "Prior Choice Economics". From the label "New Age", it is evident that the group is composed mainly of contactists, i.e., persons who believe that our neighboring planets are inhabited by benevolent, god-like beings who travel and communicate from world to world via "etheric" spaceships and universal thought waves.

The contactist is an idealist; as a member of the New Age Group cited above, he works toward establishing "the Universal Brotherhood of all Mankind"; he wants to "help create greater understanding and cooperation between the people of earth and the people of space"; and he hopes to "disseminate to the earth's peoples the solutions to their problems."

M-26

We know that communism appeals to the intellect. But we also know that many contactees are men taken in by the party line. It is a matter of degree, then, as to how the New Age faction is being infiltrated. Because of limited space here, it would be well to consider this subject further in a separate paper.

Recognizing the threat posed by subversive fronts, NICAP publicly affirms that it has no known Communist members; likewise, a similar organization, APRO *, requires prospective members to sign a statement declaring whether or not they have had any Communist ties.

At the termination of the September 24 interview, the two C.I.C. Agents apparently were confident that my group was not spreading any Un-American propaganda. I returned to my work the same day and heard nothing further about the interview until December 9, 1958. On that date I received a letter from Major Harroness, who was replying to my request of December 4, in which I asked for a copy of any official report that his office had made on the interview of September 24. He advised me that "no formal report was made in this matter."

Since the "1st Research Report" article in the Daily Bulletin had brought new requests, I decided to revise it and submit it for publication in the edition for December 22. Under the heading "Instructions for Reporting Aerial Phenomena", I asked the Ft. Monroe employees report any UFO sighting to the Group for analysis. On the 23rd I was again summoned to the C.I.C. office, where I met Mr. Robinson and another investigator, Mr. W. B. Smith. Mr. Robinson produced a draft of an official notice which he said would be printed as a rescission in a forthcoming Daily Bulletin. He said the my unofficial ad of the 22nd would be rescinded because it was a "very official sounding" announcement and because the G-2 (Intelligence) section was rather upset over the matter. The draft cited two Army documents which prescribe "proper reporting procedure for the sighting of unidentified flying objects." Mr. Robinson

---

* Address of APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization): 1712 Van Goure, Alamogordo, New Mexico.

1954

RECENT NEWS STORIES

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SHOOTS AT SAUCER: 15-year-old [redacted] Jr. of Pequoson, Virginia, has made one of the few good saucer sightings in recent months, and has an exciting story to go with it: [redacted] claims that the UFO appeared in the sky at dusk last October 20th, and hovered for a minute or more at an altitude of about 100 feet over his head. The object was four feet in diameter and had a black body encircled by a silver rim about six inches wide. Says [redacted], "I stood petrified for several seconds and then raised my 12-gauge shotgun and poured two blasts into it. I know I hit it both times, but nothing happened; so I loaded my gun with a shell which had a little more lead in it and shot it again as it disappeared." The incident took place just after sunset while [redacted] and a friend were exploring in a marshy area near their homes. (Now, that's a friendly greeting for our Space Visitors, isn't it! - Editor.)